



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TONY THURMOND STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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To: Agriculture Instructors & FFA Advisors
From: Jill Sperling, Nat'l FFA Housing Coordinator
Date: May 5, 2026
Re: 2026 National FFA Convention – State Housing Block Details

While California FFA no longer organizes a state trip to the National FFA Convention, we will be providing access to the state's room block for chapters to reserve hotel rooms. Our hotel block has 200 rooms this year; however, we only have that number of rooms on the busiest nights (Wednesday – Friday). We are very limited in room availability earlier in the week. Once the block fills, no other rooms will be added. At that point, chapters will be able to reserve housing the National FFA Chapter Housing Block available on www.ffa.org.

Convention Hotel Properties

JW Marriott
10 S. West St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Courtyard by Marriott Indianapolis Downtown
601 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Convention Hotel Room Rates & Availability

2026 National FFA Convention & Expo - Hotel Block

Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Indianapolis
King Bed with Sofa Bed - Rate: \$240/night plus tax 1 - 3 guests
2 Queen Bed - Rate: \$240/night plus tax 1 - 4 guests
JW Marriott
King Bed - Rate: \$258/night plus tax 1 - 2 guests
2 Queen Bed - Rate: \$258/night plus tax 1 - 4 guests

Table with columns for dates 10/17 to 10/26 and rows for room types: Guest room, 1 King, Sofa bed; Guest room, 2 Queen; JW Marriott Indianapolis King; JW Marriott Indianapolis Queen/Queen.

Courtyard Downtown AMENTIES (subject to change without notice)

- Restaurant, Indoor Pool, Handicap Facilities, Free Guestroom WiFi, Bus Parking Availability, Fitness Facilities, Complimentary Airport Shuttle, Complimentary Breakfast - Breakfast Type: Continental, Hot/Full, Grab & Go

JW Marriott AMENTIES (subject to change without notice)

- Restaurant, Indoor Pool, Handicap Facilities, Free Guestroom WiFi, Bus Parking Availability, Fitness Facilities, Complimentary Airport Shuttle, Complimentary Breakfast - Breakfast Type: Continental, Hot/Full, Grab & Go

Important Dates

Important Dates & Information

May 13, 2026 6:00PM EDT	State Housing Opens for online reservations
September 2, 2026 5:00PM EDT	Cut-off Date for States New reservations. Any rooms not booked by this date at 5:00 PM EDT will be released.
September 23, 2026 5:00PM EDT	Housing Cut-Off Date at 5PM EDT, last day for changes, cancellations through Housing Bureau.
September 24, 2026	Hotel Reservation Access Date. <i>Guests will be referred to hotels directly for all changes and cancellations and billing arrangements, starting on September 24. Please give the hotels a couple of business days to process their reservations before calling them.</i>
Cancellation Policy:	

May 13, 2026 – September 2, 2026 5:00PM EDT:	Room reservations cancelled between May 13, 2026 – September 2, 2026 will NOT incur a cancellation fee per room cancelled.
September 3, 2026 – September 23, 2026:	Room reservations cancelled between September 3, 2026 – September 23, 2026 will incur a one night's room and tax, non-refundable cancellation fee per room cancelled. You may make changes to the reservation without penalty, but if the reservation is cancelled the penalty fee will be charged to the credit card associated with the reservation. Prior to making the cancellation you may go into the reservation and change the credit card.
September 24, 2026 - Arrival date:	1 night's room and tax cancellation policy to be charged by the hotel for each room reservation cancelled.
Rates/Sales Tax not included:	Rates posted for the convention are <u>not inclusive of tax</u> ; tax information is listed on reservation recap online and the reservation acknowledgement.

Reservation Method Options

Reservations Online Option:	All attendees will be booking online on the Housing website with a valid credit card. Credit cards must have an expiration date of November 1, 2026 or later. State Blocks have pre-assigned inventory. Reservations may be booked online by your attendees into your state block utilizing this designated URL: Link will be sent through AET Message System at 4:00 pm PST on Wed, May 13
Sub-Block Dashboard Access:	Visit Indy can give you access to a 'Sub-Block Planner Dashboard' where, with a login through Passkey, you may access your block pickup and booked reservations at anytime while housing is open. If you would or would not like access to this feature, please confirm below. If yes is clicked, you will be sent an automated email from Passkey granting you access after housing opening: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
State Contact making the reservation vs. sending the link to Chapters to make the reservation	If a State Block is paying for all the rooms, or for any reason does not want their attendees reserving themselves online, the State Block contact will need to make the reservations online for each chapter. Please review the cancellation policy laid out above.
Late Arrivals	If any party will be arriving after the reservation check-in day, please contact the hotel in advance to inform them of the change in arrival date. Not providing advanced notice to the hotel may result in a charge of one night's room and tax and loss of rooms.
Early Departures	An early departure fee of one night's room and tax may be charged to a guest who departs prior to the reserved check-out date. Guests wishing to avoid this fee must advise the hotel before check-in of any change in the scheduled length of stay. The hotel will inform the guest of this fee upon check-in; giving the guest the option to change the check-out date upon arrival without penalty.
Purchase Orders	Arrangements to pay final hotel bill by purchase order must be made in advance directly with the hotel. A purchase order may not be an acceptable form of payment at all hotels.
Unsolicited Housing Emails	National FFA Organization works directly with Visit Indy's Housing Bureau. If you receive unsolicited emails from groups/individuals stating they are representing our convention, offering accommodations within the National FFA block and non-room block hotels, please do not reserve rooms through them as they are not representing our convention. Please feel free to forward those emails directly to National FFA Convention Management - convention@ffa.org.

State Ag Ed Staff Contact

For questions about navigating the state housing block or other questions pertaining to National FFA Convention, please feel free to contact:

Jill Sperling
CA State Housing Coordinator for National Convention
jsperling@cde.ca.gov
(559) 303-3148

Assistance with Booking Flights

For teachers who would like help booking flights for National FFA Convention, the travel agent that CA FFA has used in the past is offering to happy to help. We have worked with her for many years and she has always provided excellent service.

Kim Mowat
Great Escape Travel
kmowat@carlsontravel.net
(530) 345-6126